

California Today: Tackling Climate Change, Without Trump; California Today

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Highlight: Wednesday: A gathering in San Francisco to defy the administration's rollbacks on climate policy, new iPhones, and Alex Trebek sports a beard.

Body

Good morning.

(Want to get California Today by email? Here's the sign-up.)

The defiant ones have come to California. Of course they have. Where else would they go?

Mayors, governors, corporate executives and environmental activists from four continents are gathering in San Francisco this week to show what they can do to stave off the most catastrophic effects of climate change, even if the president of the world's most powerful country — the United States, which is also history's biggest polluter — won't.

It's a gamble. As my colleague Brad Plumer writes, these defiant ones are trying to demonstrate that they can take big steps to cut the greenhouse gas emissions that have warmed the atmosphere since the beginning of the industrial age. But their efforts have not been enough to offset the effects of the Trump administration's rollbacks on climate policy. And the world as a whole is nowhere close to meeting the targets set under the Paris climate accord three years ago, an accord that President Trump intends to withdraw the United States from.

California is not just where some of the consequences of climate change are being felt acutely, nor simply a place where high-profile solutions are being tested out. It has also been a finger in the eye of the Trump administration on climate policy; for instance, it has challenged his rollbacks on fuel-efficiency standards.

On Monday, Gov. Jerry Brown, who is one of the sponsors of the Global Climate Action Summit, signed a bill requiring California's utilities to get all their electricity from zero-carbon sources by 2045.

And former Vice President Al Gore struck a bullish note on the spread of zero-carbon technologies at an event on Tuesday. But he was also blunt about the pace of change. "We're still not winning," he said. "We have to make the decarbonization of the global economy the central organizing principle of human civilization."

He spoke in a dark cavernous hall at the Fort Mason Center for the Arts and Culture, surrounded by giant photographs of coal miners and receding glaciers, part of an exhibition organized by the Asia Society.

California Online

(Please note: We regularly highlight articles on news sites that have limited access for nonsubscribers.)

It's that time of year again: Apple is set to introduce three new iPhones today. [The New York Times]

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A Castro Valley man shouting profanities about President Trump tried to stab a Republican congressional candidate with a switchblade. No one was seriously injured. [The San Francisco Chronicle]

A Bay Area choir director might seem an odd fit for a six-figure job on the state's Workers' Compensation Appeals Board. But he's a friend of Governor Brown. [The San Francisco Chronicle]

A Los Angeles Times columnist spent hours on the campaign trail with Ammar Campa-Najjar, the 29-year-old Democrat trying to unseat Representative Duncan Hunter. [The Los Angeles Times]

A federal judge has struck down a nearly century-old California law that banned gun shops from advertising handguns on their premises. [The Associated Press]

Uh-oh: Nearly 224,000 solo drivers stand to lose their car pool stickers on Jan. 1. [The Mercury News]

Tesla will eliminate some color options for its electric cars to streamline production. Goodbye, "Obsidian Black" and "Metallic Silver." [Reuters]

How exactly did the California desert become an oasis for palm trees? [The Desert Sun]

One way to describe Jacquie Aiche's jewelry, Instagram and even her Beverly Hills office: "That laid-back cool California girl is in everything she does." [The New York Times]

At his new restaurant Bavel, Ori Menashe — of Bestia fame — is cooking the Israeli and pan-Middle Eastern food he has always wanted to cook. [The New York Times]

Chipotle is testing bacon at restaurants in four Orange County cities this month. [The Orange County Register]

And Finally ...

Answer: This game show host began the 35th season of a much-loved quiz program sporting a beard.

Question: Who is Alex Trebek?

Yes, Mr. Trebek, a Los Angeles resident, has once again taped "Jeopardy!" episodes in Culver City. And given the host's new look, the show's Twitter account has started a poll.

"To beard, or not to beard: that is the question," the tweet says. "Vote now! #AlexTrebeard."

Mr. Trebek wasted little time addressing the issue in the season's first episode on Monday.

"Thank you ladies and gentlemen, and welcome to 'Jeopardy!' as we begin our 35th season," he said. "No need to inquire how I spent my summer vacation."

California Today goes live at 6 a.m. Pacific time weekdays. Tell us what you want to see: CAtoday@nytimes.com.

California Today is edited by Julie Bloom, who grew up in Los Angeles and graduated from U.C. Berkeley.

PHOTO: Gov. Jerry Brown of California, left, with State Senator Kevin de León. The governor is leading high-level climate talks this week in San Francisco. (PHOTOGRAPH BY Rich Pedroncelli/Associated Press FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES)

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